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November 15, 2017

### **VIA ECFS**

Marlene Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 00-257

Notification of Transfer of Subscribers to The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company of Stanton, Iowa Pursuant to 47 C.F.C 64.1120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company ("FMTC"), and pursuant to Section 64.1120(e) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e), this letter provides notice to the Commission of FMTC's intent to acquire the customer base of Villisca Farmers Telephone Company ("Villisca"). Villisca is a wholly-subsidiary of FMTC, and the pro form merger will result in the migration of Villisca's customers in two exchanges (Villisca and Nodaway) in Montgomery, Adams, Page, and Taylor Counties to FMTC. The following information is submitted as required by Section 64.1120(e)(1):

- (1) Name of the Parties to the Transaction
  The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company
  Villisca Farmers Telephone Company
- (2) <u>Types of Telecommunications Services Provided to Affected Customer:</u> Local exchange telephone service and long distance
- (3) Date of Transfer

The affected customers will be transferred to FMTC effective January 1, 2018. Customers will receive 30 days prior notice of the transaction.

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- (4) <u>Certificate of Compliance</u>
  Attached hereto as Exhibit A is FMTC's certification required under Section 64.1120(e)(1) of the Commission's rules.
- (5) <u>Copy of Notice Sent to Affected Subscribers</u>
  Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a copy of a representative sample of the customer notice that will be mailed to the affected customers.

Should you have any questions with respect to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 703-812-0442.

Respectfully submitted,

James U. Troup

Tony S. Lee

Counsel for The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and Villisca Farmers Telephone Company

# EXHIBIT A

Certification of The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

# **CERTIFICATION**

I, Kevin T. Cabbage, General Manager/CEO of The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company ("FMTC"), hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to make this certification on behalf of FMTC; that I have read the foregoing document and know the contents thereof; and that the same are true of my own knowledge, except to those matters therein stated upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true. I further certify that with respect to the transfer of Villisca Farmers Telephone Company customers to FMTC, FMTC will comply with the Commission's requirements to provide advance customer notice in accordance with Section 64.1120(e)(3), with the obligations specified in that notice, and with other statutory and Commission requirements that apply to this streamlined process.

Kevin T. Cabbage General Manager/CEO The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

11/14/2017

Date

# EXHIBIT B

Sample Notice to Customers



Farmers Mutual Telephone Company 410 Broad Avenue Stanton, Iowa 51573-0220 712.829.2111

November 27, 2017

## **Important Information Regarding Your Local Telephone Service Provider**

Villisca Farmers Telephone Company ("VFTC") has recently adopted a Plan of Merger whereby it will be merged with and into its parent company, The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company of Stanton, Iowa ("FMTC"), with FMTC remaining as the surviving corporation.

Subject to required regulatory approvals, the merger is expected to take effect on January 1, 2018 (the actual date of the consummation of such merger, the "Merger Date"). Following the merger, FMTC will continue to provide the same wireline telecommunications and related services that are currently provided to you through VFTC as its wholly owned subsidiary. The following overview outlines how your services will be transitioned from VFTC to FMTC. Your telephone number will not change and there will be no interruption to your current telecommunications services. There will be no charge to you in connection with this change of local service provider.

#### **About FMTC**

FMTC has been providing communication services to communities in southwest Iowa for over 100 years. Specifically, FMTC has served the Villisca and Nodaway communities since acquiring a 100% ownership stake in VFTC in 2010. FMTC has a proven record of making investments in its existing markets through network expansion, infrastructure and equipment upgrades, and deployment of new and enhanced products and services. Since the acquisition of VFTC in 2010, FMTC has completed and converted 100% of all exchange area customers (FMTC & VFTC) to an underground Fiber-to the-Home network. FMTC prides itself in providing state-of-the-art products from people skilled, trained and willing to serve its customers. The purpose of the corporate merger of VFTC and FMTC is to improve corporate and operational efficiencies and to otherwise position FMTC to continue to provide affordable, high quality communications services to all of its customers.

#### **Seamless Transfer of Services**

Following the merger, FMTC will continue to provide you with the same wireline telecommunications services and other services you currently receive, all in accordance with applicable state and federal tariffs and laws. The only difference is that FMTC will now provide such services directly rather than through VFTC as its wholly owned subsidiary. Any future changes to the services to be provided to you would be made in accordance with applicable state and federal tariffs and law. The current rates you pay to VFTC will not increase as a result of this transaction, and if any rates or services were to change in the future, notice would be provided to you in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. Please be assured that you will not incur or be assessed a carrier change charge or any other charge or fee related to the transfer of your telephone account or other

telecommunications services accounts from VFTC to FMTC. In the event that you are assessed a carrier charge or other fee related to the transfer of your account from VFTC to FMTC, FMTC will be responsible for that charge or fee. Notice of this change in your service provider has been filed with the Iowa Utilities Board and the Federal Communications Commission and will cause no disruption in your services.

### Who to Contact with Questions

While FMTC hopes that you will choose to remain with it as your direct service provider following the merger and for many years to come, you do have the right to select another carrier for your services, to the extent one is available. Both before and after the date of the merger, any questions you may have regarding your current services can be addressed by calling the FMTC customer service department (800-469-2111), and any service orders or complaints you may have should continue to be addressed to FMTC.

### **Customer Account, Billing and Payment**

All customers receiving this notice will be transferred from VFTC to FMTC unless they have selected a different service provider before the Merger Date. Existing preferred carrier freezes on the service(s) involved in the transfer (for example, a freeze on your preferred long distance carrier) will be lifted if you select a new local service provider other than FMTC, and you must contact your new local telephone service provider if you have selected another carrier prior to the Merger Date to arrange a new freeze following the transfer. If you decide to continue with FMTC as your local telephone service provider, your existing preferred carrier freezes will continue, and there is no need to contact FMTC to arrange for a new freeze. Effective on or after the Merger Date, VFTC will cease to exist as a separate legal entity, FMTC will directly assume all of the rights and responsibilities of VFTC under your existing account, and your relationship with VFTC will be transferred directly to FMTC. There will be no changes in billing addresses, customer support numbers, and other contact information. In the meantime, please continue to pay VFTC in your normal timely manner until further notice in order to avoid disruption of service.

It has been our pleasure to provide you with quality telecommunications services through VFTC. You are a valued customer and will continue to be treated as such with FMTC as your direct service provider following consummation of this merger.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Cabbage GM/CEO The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company of Stanton, Iowa Villisca Farmers Telephone Company